



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: November 17, 2014

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Robert Stowers, Manager, South Region Park Resources

Subject: Change in Park Hours for Leschi Park, Frink Park and Parking Lot

Requested Board Action

Parks recently completed and 18-month pilot project in Leschi Park, Frink Park and the adjacent parking lot to permanently reduce the open hours of these areas. (A separate briefing paper addresses the pilot in the adjacent Leschi-Lake Dell Natural Area.)

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Board of Park Commissioners makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours permanent based on the staff evaluation and public testimony. The Board's vote can occur the same day as the presentation of the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

Staff Recommendation

Leschi and Frink Parks and the adjacent parking lot meet all the criteria to permanently change the hours from 4:00 a.m. -11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. Staff recommend the permanent change in hours in order to continue the progress made during the pilot to reduce negative behavior and improve the peace and tranquility of the Leschi community that has been realized during the pilot period.

Park Description and location

Leschi Park, located at 201 Lakeside Ave S., and Frink Park, located at 398 Lake Washington Blvd S., are categorized as Neighborhood Parks; maintenance is accomplished by our Central East park crews who do the routine maintenance and litter control for the parks.

Since 1906 Frink Park has served as one of Seattle's treasured natural woodland parks, where people can enjoy amazing mountain and sound views. Leschi Park's rolling hillside of trees and

roses was a camp site for Chief Leschi, of the Nisqually tribe. These outstanding parks are primarily used by visitors to Lake Washington Blvd., neighbors, bird watchers and walkers.

Issues

There have been continuous complaints about illegal behavior occurring at these parks and in the small parking lot in Leschi Park. Drinking and drug use occur around the clock and young people congregate at all hours. Neighbors and Parks staff cite four specific reasons for requesting the change in hours:

- 1) Maintenance workers are burdened with cleaning drug baggies, beer cans, broken glass laden trash and bio waste (condoms) from the parking lot area.
- 2) Extensive graffiti clean-up is a pattern after nights of cars remaining in the lot until or after the current closing time.
- 3) Neighbors frequently call 911 because of the late night activities which include loud and boisterous behavior. Neighbors recall an incident where a stolen car was set on fire around 1:00 a.m. A former Park Board member watched the perpetrators roar away in another car.
- 4) The community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours.

Additional Information

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Attachments

Maps of Leschi and Frink Parks